



CITY OF DANBURY

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March 11, 2010

Senator Toni Boucher
Senator Donald DeFronzo
Representative David Scribner
Representative Antonio Guerrero
Transportation Committee
Room 2300, LOB
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: H.B. 5474 An Act Concerning the Establishment of Electronic
Toll's at the State's Borders.**

As Mayor of the City of Danbury, I am writing against the return of tolls to the Connecticut highways. The Transportation Committee should not be looking to add to the high financial burdens that Danbury and Connecticut residents already face. The thought of bringing tolls back to Connecticut, even with enhanced and sophisticated collection methods is a mistake.

Restoring tolls on Connecticut highways would:

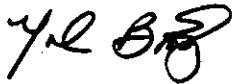
- Worsen traffic congestion
- Worsen air pollution especially in Fairfield County which already has poor air quality
- Worsen noise pollution
- Possibly subject Connecticut to reduced Federal Highway funding
- Create bottlenecks and increased traffic on back roads which are incapable of handling increased traffic
- In effect be an additional commuter tax for Connecticut residents who work in border towns and cities
- Disproportionately affect other segments of the population

Even with an EZ Pass electronic toll system, manned booths would still be necessary to accommodate out of state motorists and others without an EZ Pass tag. With more vehicles waiting in line to pay tolls with their engines idling and pollution settling in these areas, Connecticut's air quality will be further deteriorated, contributing to air born diseases.

The legislature should concentrate of fixing the budget and current year's budget deficit instead of another tax on Connecticut residents.

I have great concerns that bringing back tolls to Connecticut will only cost us more down the road. Danbury remains committed to opposing highway tolls for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Boughton', written in a cursive style.

Mark D. Boughton
Mayor